GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2404
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005
FIRE IN ONGC PRODUCTION UNITS
Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Munshiram Shri ;Patel Shri Jivabhai Ambalal;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of fire have taken place in many production units of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC);

(b) if so, the number of such incidents took place during the last three years, incident-wise;

(c) the total loss of lives and properties therefrom;

(d) whether enquires have been conducted in each of the above incidents;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof, incident-wise; and

(f) the precautionary measures taken to prevent such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYER)

(a) There have been a few incidents of fire in production units of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

(b) During the last three years, the following three incidents of fire have occurred. The details in this regard are as follows:

1. The BHN Fire Incident on 27.07.2005

2. Fire incident in 8th gas pipeline from Jotana GGS to Sobhasan CTF (Ambassan Village) - Mehasana Asset, on 31.01.2005

3. Fire incident at Uran Plant on 24.07.2004

(c) The details in this regard are as follows:

Incident - BHN

Loss of lives : 22 (includes 11 persons missing - presumed dead)

Preliminary estimates place the loss at US $ 350 Million.

Incident - Mehsana

Loss of lives : 2 Security personnel

There has been no significant financial loss.

Incident - URAN

Loss of lives : 1

Loss of property - Rs.2.68 Crores.

(d) Yes, Sir. Enquires have been made or being conducted into each of the above incidents.

(e) The details in this regard are as follows:

BHN - Incident

An enquiry committee has been constituted by C&MD, ONGC. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has also constituted a hi-powered

Independent Inquiry Committee headed by Mr. T.N.R. Rao, Ex Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Reports are awaited.

Mehsana - Incident : Enquiry completed

Finding:

Non - adherence to proper procedures in cordoning off the remote leakage area.

URAN- Incident

Finding:

The root cause, was analysed as the failure on the part of operators in not following laid down operating procedures.

(f) ONGC have taken the following measures to prevent such incidents:

i) Conduct third Party Health Safety & Environment Audit by Internationally reputed company every 2 years to suggest improvements in the system.

ii) Obtain Quality Health Safety & Environment certification based on ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and Occupation Health & Safety Assessment Series 18001 for all operating units of ONGC.

iii) Strengthen working procedures through Institutionalizing Integrated Permit to Work System (PTW), Management of Change (MOC), Simultaneous Operations (SIMOPS), Lockout Tagout, Job Safety Analysis (JSA), etc.

iv) Conduct Regular Mock Drills for all emergencies as per Emergency Response Plan (ERP).
v) Strengthen training for ensuring follow up of all standard operating procedures by the operators.